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Rep. Katsma Votes for Pain-capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Madison—Representative Terry Katsma (R–Oostburg) voted today to pass Senate Bill (SB) 179, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The measure has already passed in the Senate and heads now to Governor Scott Walker, who has indicated that he will sign the bill into law.

SB 179 bans the abortion of unborn children who have reached the age at which they can feel pain. In the rare event that the child’s mother is experiencing a medical emergency and the pregnancy must be terminated, the bill requires the physician to do so in whatever manner provides the child’s best opportunity to survive.

“Modern medical technology has proven that unborn children feel pain at only 20 weeks after fertilization,” explained Rep. Katsma, “but most abortions that occur after 16 weeks essentially involve dismemberment of the child. The excruciating pain to which these children are subjected is further proof of their humanity. The state has a moral duty to protect and defend these otherwise defenseless human beings.”

Wisconsin will join 11 other states that have enacted similar bans on the abortion of pain-capable children. At present, approximately 1 percent of all abortions performed in Wisconsin occur after unborn children have lived for 20 weeks after fertilization.

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Representative Terry Katsma represents the 26th Assembly District including the cities of Sheboygan and Sheboygan Falls; the villages of Adell, Oostburg, Random Lake and Cedar Grove; and the towns of Lima, Holland, Sherman and Wilson. He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Financial Institutions and as a member of the committees on Consumer Protection, Housing and Real Estate, Ways and Means and Workforce Development.